

Applicant: Bill J. Coe  
Serial No. 09/879,419  
February 17, 2005

### **Amendment to the Claims**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

#### **Listing of Claims**

CLAIM 1 (currently amended) A soft link for connecting a first member to a second member, said soft link comprising:

a one-piece flexible body member having a permanently, intrinsically looped first end and a second end; wherein said first end and said second end are removably attachable ~~attached~~ to each other to define a single continuous loop attachment area for said body member and for connecting the first member to the second member; wherein the continuous loop attachment area is inserted through the first member and through the second member when connecting the first member to the second member

whereby metal usage in the connecting is minimized.

CLAIM 2 (original) The soft link of claim 1 wherein said second end is provided with a lump.

CLAIM 3 (previously presented) The soft link of claim 1 wherein the second end of said body member is permanently looped.

CLAIM 4 (original) The soft link of claim 3 further including a tab member secured to said second looped end.

CLAIM 5 (previously presented) The soft link of claim 1 wherein said body member is constructed from a rope material.

CLAIM 6 (previously presented) The soft link of claim 5 wherein said rope material is high strength fibers.

CLAIM 7 (previously presented) The soft link of claim 1 wherein the first member is a group of parachute suspension lines and said second member is a riser; wherein a first portion of said body member is disposed within a first opening defined by the group of parachute

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suspension lines and a second portion of said body member is disposed within a second opening defined by the riser when said first end is attached to said second end.

CLAIM 8 (previously presented) The soft link of claim 1 wherein the first member is a bridle cord and the second member is a canopy; wherein a first portion of said body member is disposed within a first opening defined by the bridle cord and a second portion of said body member is disposed within a second opening defined by the canopy when said first end is attached to said second end.

CLAIM 9 (original) The soft link of claim 8 wherein said canopy is a pilot chute.

CLAIM 10 (currently amended) A soft link for connecting a first member to a second member, said soft link comprising:

a flexible one-piece body member having a permanently intrinsically looped first end and a permanently intrinsically looped second end; and

a non-metal tab member secured to said second looped end;

wherein said body member is constructed from a rope material;

wherein said first end and said second end are removably attached to each other to define a single continuous loop attachment area for said body member and for connecting the first member to the second member; wherein the continuous loop attachment area is inserted through the first member and through the second member when connecting the first member to the second member

whereby metal usage in the connecting is minimized.

CLAIM 11 (previously presented) The soft link of claim 10 wherein said rope material is relatively high strength fibers.

CLAIM 12 (previously presented) The soft link of claim 10 wherein the first member is a group of parachute suspension lines and said second member is a riser; wherein a first portion of said body member is disposed within a first opening defined by the group of parachute suspension lines and a second portion of said body member is disposed within a second opening defined by the riser when said first end is attached to said second end.

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CLAIM 13 (previously presented) The soft link of claim 10 wherein the first member is a bridle cord and the second member is a canopy; wherein a first portion of said body member is disposed within a first opening defined by the bridle cord and a second portion of said body member is disposed within a second opening defined by the canopy when said first end is attached to said second end.

CLAIM 14 (previously presented) The soft link of claim 13 wherein said canopy is a pilot chute.

CLAIM 15 (previously presented) The soft link of claim 10 wherein said rope material is nylon.

CLAIM 16 (original) The soft link of claim 10 wherein said flexible body member including at least one bartack thread.

CLAIM 17 (currently amended) A soft link for connecting a first member of a parachute assembly to a second member of a parachute assembly, said soft link comprising:

a flexible one-piece body member having a permanently intrinsically looped first end and a permanently intrinsically looped second end, said flexible body member having a plurality of bartack threads; and

a non-metal tab member secured to said second looped end;

wherein said body member is constructed from high strength fibers;

wherein said first end and said second end are removably attached to each other to define a single continuous loop attachment area for said body member and for connecting the first member to the second member; wherein the continuous loop attachment area is inserted through the first member and through the second member when connecting the first member to the second member

whereby metal usage in the connecting is minimized.

CLAIM 18 (previously presented) The soft link of claim 17 wherein the first member is a group of parachute suspension lines and said second member is a riser; wherein a first portion of said body member is disposed within a first opening defined by the group of parachute

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suspension lines and a second portion of said body member is disposed within a second opening defined by the riser when said first end is attached to said second end.

CLAIM 19 (previously presented) The soft link of claim 17 wherein the first member is a bridle cord and the second member is a canopy; wherein a first portion of said body member is disposed within a first opening defined by the bridle cord and a second portion of said body member is disposed within a second opening defined by the canopy when said first end is attached to said second end.

CLAIM 20 (original) The soft link of claim 19 wherein said canopy is a pilot chute.

CLAIM 21 (original) The soft link of claim 17 wherein said tab member includes a nylon member secured to the second looped end of said body member and a label attached to the nylon member.

CLAIM 22 (previously presented) The soft link of claim 1 wherein once the first member and the second member are connected the attachment point of the first end and the second end of said body member is cinched.

CLAIM 23 (previously presented) The soft link of claim 10 wherein once the first member and the second member are connected the attachment point of the first end and the second end of said body member is cinched.

CLAIM 24 (previously presented) The soft link of claim 17 wherein once the first member and the second member are connected the attachment point of the first end and the second end of said body member is cinched.